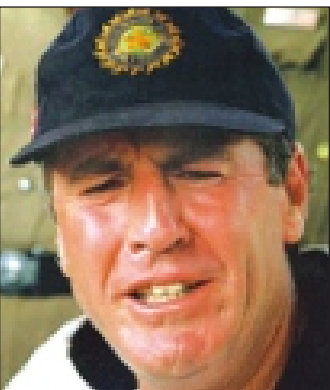




Did U Know?

The International Badminton Federation (IBF) headquarters were established in Gloucestershire, England in 1934.



John Wright

(Former Indian cricket coach)

"I have enjoyed some tremendous battles with Australia over the years as player and coach, so this is another outstanding opportunity to pit my wits and skills against them." After being named coach of the Rest of the World team in the Super Series against Australia.



ESPN

Zimbabwe vs New Zealand
First ODI
Live at 1:30 pm
Sportscentre
Live at 10:00 pm
English Premier Football League
Chelsea vs West Bromwich
Live at 12:40 am (Thursday)

STAR Sports

English Premier Football League
Arsenal vs Fulham
Live at 12:40 am (Thursday)

Sri Lanka name full-strength squads

AFP, Colombo

Veteran batsman Marvan Atapattu will lead full-strength Sri Lankan squads in the upcoming home one-day and Test series against Bangladesh, it was announced here on Tuesday.

"We are not taking the opposition lightly as you cannot take any chances in international cricket," said chairman of selectors Lalith Kaluperuma.

SQUADS

ONE-DAY: Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Russel Arnold, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas, Upul Chandana, Farveez Maharoof, Muttiah Muralitharan, Avishka Gunawardene, Dilhara Fernando, Dilhara Lokuhettige, Thilan Samaraweera.
TEST: Marvan Atapattu (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas, Farveez Maharoof, Rangana Herath, Muttiah Muralitharan, Lasith Malinga, Russel Arnold, Gayan Wijekoon, Dilhara Fernando, Shanitha Kalavithigoda.

INTER-VARSITY AQUATIC DU top the table

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Dhaka University emerged champions in the inter-university swimming and water-polo championships which concluded yesterday.

The DU finished with eight gold medals including the water-polo honours, three silver and one bronze while Rajshahi were runners-up with a haul of four gold, five silver and four bronze medals.

The Islamic University were the only other team to win gold and clinched third place with 2-4-1.

Professor AFM Yusuf Haider, acting VC of Dhaka University, gave away prizes among the winners.

Tigers now want more Bangladesh leave for Sri Lanka today



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh embark on their second full series in Sri Lanka today with their mind set not only on improving but winning one or two matches.

Habibul Bashar's men having won at least one match in the previous three one-day series against India, Zimbabwe and Australia, the possibility of similar success can not be ruled out despite the fact that the Lankans are a tough nut to crack in their own den.

"We are trying to make winning a habit so that people can't say we are making upsets. Our target is to reduce the gap between wins," said Tigers skipper Bashar at a press conference prior to their departure on Tuesday.

Bangladesh will play three ODIs and two Tests in the month long trip.

"Performing consistently is still our target. Not just winning one or two matches, we want to do it regularly. We have to improve individually as well as a team. We lost four one-dayers after winning one. We will try to win one or two here," Bashar hoped.

"We have won at least one match in the last three series. If we can't do it in Sri Lanka it will be considered as a setback. But if we can make them sweat, that would confirm we are in the right direction."

"The Lankans are definitely stronger than us in all three departments. Still, we can be a better fielding side," said the premier batsman of the country while assessing the strength of the two sides.

Asked about the new one-day rules to be adopted in the series,

Bashar admitted that it would be an additional task for him.

"A captain always has to think but now I have to do the difficult task of thinking instantly. We will get the chance to apply those rules in the practice match. The new rules are made to make limited-overs cricket more exciting. It is as new to us as for the Lankans. Both teams are going to face similar problems, especially for field restrictions. Super-sub might be more helpful to us. Sometimes we are forced to play with four bowlers to strengthen the batting. We don't have to compromise with this any more."

Coach Dav Whatmore also admitted that the captain will have to cope with the situation.

"We have had a lot of discussions about the new one-day rules. We haven't had the opportunity to play but that's going to happen during the practice game. We have been theorising all sorts of permutations and combinations about replacement players and field restrictions but I think, it would be harder for the captain because he has to take decisions in the field," the 51-year-old Australian said.

Happy with the preparation during the monsoon, Whatmore said that it was as good as it could have been because of the new facilities available at Mirpur.

"When I first came here, we had to leave for Australia two weeks earlier for match practice and training due to inclement weather. But not this time."

Comparing Bangladesh's last tour in England and the coming trip to Sri Lanka, Whatmore said the conditions are different.

"The two teams are also different. What we have to do is to progress in the direction that we are, to realise more games and win more along the way. We had three very good wins recently, the December win against India, in June against Australia in Cardiff and the history making series victory against Zimbabwe at home," he said.

"I am not thinking about winning every game but one or two extra wins along the way will confirm that we are in the right direction. Yes, we are capable of beating Sri Lanka. But I also understand and respect the opposition in their home condition."

"Every time we pick a new player, we are strengthening the team. We do not play our game for any other reason but to win. And if we don't win our objective is to make sure the opposition plays really hard," said the ex-Sri Lanka coach adding that he would try to use his previous

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SCHEDULE

Date	Match	Venue
Aug 28	1-Day practice match	Moratuwa
Aug 31	First ODI	SSC Colombo
Sept 2	Second ODI (D/N)	RPS Colombo
Sept 4	Third ODI (D/N)	RPS Colombo
Sept 7-9	3-day practice match	CCC Colombo
Sept 12-16	First Test	RPS Colombo
Sept 20-24	Second Test	P Sara Colombo



Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore takes questions from reporters during a press conference at a city hotel on Tuesday. On the left is captain Habibul Bashar.

BHF to take Qamar to task

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) will lodge an official complaint to the International Hockey Federation (FIH) against Pakistani coach Qamar Ibrahim and his colleague Ershad Haider.

Former Pakistani international Qamar and BHF's trainer Haider left Dhaka last week without notifying the federation in the middle of a two-year contract.

The BHF, however, will first issue Qamar a show-cause notice to explain for his vanishing act, it was decided at an executive meeting of the BHF yesterday.

It also directed its member Kamrul Islam Kismat to apologise for his recent misbehaviour with a sports journalist.

U-17 team aims for hattrick

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-17 cricket team will look to post their third win a row when they take on minnows Malaysia today in the International Golden Hope Challenge tournament in Kuala Lumpur.

Bangladesh, who crushed the hosts by 198 runs in their first match, earned an exciting 13-run victory in their second match against Sri Lanka on Monday.

A four-wicket haul by Rumon helped Bangladesh restrict the Lankan youths to just 94 while defending a paltry 107-run total at the Bayuemas Oval.

Amit scored highest 43 in the Bangladesh innings that lasted 36.1 overs. Sri Lankan bowler Shiwanka captured three wickets for 25.

Rumon claimed 4-16 while vice-captain Shuvo and skipper Saqib each chipped in with two wickets for 17 and 22 runs respectively.

CUTE HANDBALL Mariner meet Victoria in opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club will take on Victoria Sporting Club in the opening match of the Cute Premier Handball League, which commences today at the outer stadium handball ground.

The budget to run the eight-team meet is Tk 1.65 lakh. Sponsors Moushumi Industries Limited will provide Tk 1.20 lakh, informed Bangladesh Handball Federation (BHF) officials at a press conference yesterday.

BHF general secretary Asaduzzaman Kohinor, chairman of Mou-shumi Industries Kazi Rajib Uddin Chapal and league committee secretary Moushum Ali were present.

Chappell warns India on eve of Zim tour

REUTERS, Mumbai

India coach Greg Chappell warned his squad to avoid seeking short-term solutions for their indifferent form as the players prepared to leave for a month-long tour of Zimbabwe.

"If we're looking for quick-fixes then we are going to be slightly disappointed," he said at a news conference in Mumbai on Monday. "It is a matter of doing some hard work consistently over a long period of time."

India left for Harare early on Tuesday to play in two Tests and a triangular one-day series which will also involve New Zealand.

The former Australia captain, whose tenure as India coach began with defeat in a one-day series in Sri Lanka earlier this month, looked grim.

"We need to change the mindset, the way people prepare for a cricket match, (but) that will take some time," he said.

Chappell, who took over as coach in June, and his players have been criticised for failing to beat Sri Lanka.

India, under pressure to reverse their recent poor one-day record, have not won a Test series outside the sub-continent since 1986.

Chappell's squad, without the injured Sachin Tendulkar for at least the one-day matches, are also concerned about opening batsman Virender Sehwag's recent slump in form.

Captain Sourav Ganguly said that Sehwag would be a key player in Zimbabwe.

Ganguly has also been lacking big scores in the last two years and cricket-mad India has debated whether premier batsman Rahul Dravid, his long-term deputy, should replace him as captain.

Relishing the prospect



AFP, Sydney

Australian captain Ricky Ponting said Tuesday the titanic Ashes battle with England will whet cricket fans' appetites for October's Test and one-day Super Series against the ICC World teams in Australia.

The International Cricket Council Tuesday announced line-ups containing the cream of world cricket for the six-day Test against the Australians at the Sydney Cricket Ground from October 14-19.

That will be preceded by three one-dayers at Melbourne's Docklands stadium on October 5, 7 and 9.

"It will be an amazing experience to play against a side of this calibre and I think for those players in the World XI, it will be an equally exciting prospect to play in a team alongside the game's greats," Ponting said in a Cricket Australia statement Tuesday.

"No doubt the Australian public is

talking about the tight Ashes battle that we're currently in, and hopefully, that can whet people's appetites for even more great cricket in October."

"We've spent some time on the bus journeys around England, trying to predict the World XI. There's no doubt that this is a highly impressive line-up."

Cricket Australia chief executive



RICKY PONTING

James Sutherland said Australia was ready to stage its biggest cricket event in 13 years.

"This is the biggest cricket event

Australia has staged since the 1992 World Cup, and its a chance for Australia to welcome the world to our doorstep and show what cricket means to us as a nation," Sutherland said in the statement.

"This is the ultimate sporting contest - the best team in the world against a team of the worlds best players."

"The ICC World XI is a star-studded line-up and we are looking forward to seeing how Australia's challenge against the ICC World XI will unfold."

"We have seen over the past month or so the intense excitement and interest that surrounds a genuine contest between two evenly matched teams (in the Ashes series)."

"England is challenging Australia and we are going to see the likes of Andrew Flintoff, Steve Harmison and Kevin Pietersen taking them on again in October at the Super Series."

Sutherland said Australia will name its final squad of 13 players for the six-day Super Test, and 14 members for the one-day international series after the Ashes series in mid-September.

Zim tri-series from today



AFP, Bulawayo

A powerful India, a proven New Zealand and a topsy-turvy Zimbabwe begin a triangular one-day international series with two matches here and five more in Harare over the next two weeks.

After the three countries meet each other twice, a sequence providing six matches in all, the final will be held in the capital Harare on September 6.

Zimbabwe cannot be expected to figure in the tournament, although it is wise to avoid predicting write-offs, as their new coach Kevin Curran will be looking to make his mark during his first game in charge against New Zealand on Wednesday.

But the Kiwis are resounding favourites having beaten Zimbabwe in both their Test matches which ended last week - one by an innings and 294 runs, the other by an innings and 46.

India versus New Zealand will be a fascinating prospect, as both sides are regarded as being evenly balanced.

The Kiwis are very strong in the middle of the order, with captain Stephen Fleming, Nathan Astle, Chris Cairns and Craig McMillan backed up by Scott Styris, any of whom could produce fireworks.

India's Virender Sehwag, one of the greatest cricket entertainers on earth, and the steady influence of

Rahul Dravid, will provide plenty of big innings in response.

Their respective batsmen will most likely take centre stage because the Queens Sports Club ground, once its early morning dangers have been negotiated, offers a slowish, true pitch of even bounce that will encourage the chasing of boundaries.

Zimbabwe, meanwhile, have chopped up their Test squad after their poor performance against New Zealand by dispensing with Craig Wishart, Dion Ebrahim, Chris Mpofu, Graeme Cremer and Neil Ferreira.

Several with some previous experience have been brought back, including Chaminorwa Chibhabha, Waddington Mwayenga, Edward Rainsford, Prosper Utseya, Charles Coventry and Vusumuzi Sibanda.

This is a fragile looking line-up, but it was forced on the selectors, obliged to choose between a group of failures against New Zealand, and previous players who never quite made it.

They are, though, able to welcome back paceman and sometimes big hitter Andy Bignaut, who

once took apart Australia's Jason Gillespie.

Zimbabwe have beaten India eight times in ODI's, although that has been over a 22-year period, and they beat the Kiwis 2-1 when they toured here in 2000.

But Zimbabwe have much to learn, both on and off the field, and they will not figure in the outcome as India and New Zealand take off the gloves and battle pretty much evenly for the spoils.

After the triangular tournament India and the host nation move into a two Test series here.

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SQUADS

ZIMBABWE: Tatenda Taibu (captain), Andy Bignaut, Heath Streak, Chamunorwa Chibhabha, Keith Dabengwa, Waddington Mwayenga, Edward Rainsford, Prosper Utseya, Blessing Mahwire, Stuart Carlisle, Hamilton Mazakadsa, Charles Coventry, Brendan Taylor, Craig Wishart, Vusumuzi Sibanda, Gavin Ewing.

INDIA: Sourav Ganguly (captain), Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Mohammad Kaif, Venugopal Rao, Suresh Raina, Mahendra Dhoni, Harbhajan Singh, Murali Kartik, Ashish Nehra, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Rudra Pratap Singh and Jai Prakash Yadav.

NEW ZEALAND: Stephen Fleming (captain), Daniel Vettori, Hamish Marshall, Nathan Astle, Scott Styris, Lou Vincent, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Shane Bond, Chris Martin, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Andre Adams, Jeetan Patel.



Selector of ICC World XI Richard Hadlee (R) talks to the side's coach John Wright during the announcement of the squads for the Super Series against Australia in Melbourne on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP